



July 6, 2026

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:
Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and
their works do follow them." Rev.14;13

A Church Family changes just as our own families change over time. 'Charter members', 'Oldtimers', new friends when we joined shuffle off this mortal coil and leave holes in the 'family' and in our hearts.

I grew up with 'older' parents. Death was part of life in daily life in village India and in conversations around the dinner table. It continues to be so now as I am a senior octogenarian. What a comfort to know that we look forward to reuniting with our loved ones and that we know 'that their works do follow them.'

Don and Carol Mead were one of our first 'new' friends when we joined St. Andrews. Terry and Gretchen Bard introduced us. We are blessed that they did.

Gail Brandt introduced the Choir's anthem two weeks ago with heartfelt words about Don's commitment to Peace. Don was a devout Christian and a real Presbyterian. He was an Elder in the true sense of that Office of the church. He was actively involved in the National and International Church. He cared for everyone. He was a gentle and kind soul. He listened and he was firm in his commitments. He chaired the then Mission and Peace and Justice Committees. He sang in the choir. He was a Liturgist. He was an integral part of the men's group. He led this congregation in yearly experiences with the International Peace Volunteers. He arranged for these individuals to speak to students at all of the local high schools. He and Carol (and the Graces and others) housed these brothers and sisters. We learned through their stories of the impact of Christ's Great Commission on lives around the world.

Don and Carol 'retired' to Louisville and continued their involved, committed, Christian lives there but their hearts are 'up north' after years of living in Glen

Arbor and at St. Andrews. Don went to his heavenly reward a year ago.

All of this is in my mind because Don's Interment service in our Memorial Garden is on August 2nd. after the regular morning service and coffee hour. Newer members of this church family were not blessed to know Don. He was and is truly a Saint of the Church. His widow Carol and their blended family and friends will be worshiping with us. Let us welcome and enfold them in the circle of love that is St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Don and Carol's favorite hymn serves as a grounding reminder of gratitude, trust, and peace through life's changing seasons.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:
Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. [Refrain]

"For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!"

~Written by Pat Sheafor

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